

Comprehensive Summary of Changes to Sportfishing Regulations to Implement Season Delays and Suspensions in Response to Requests to Protect Public Health and Safety

April 22, 2020

In an effort to help inform anglers of the delays to the trout fishing openers in Inyo, Mono, Sierra, and Alpine counties, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has provided an overview below to help guide anglers through these changes. The delay of the traditional trout opener will affect a number of waters in Mono, Inyo, Sierra, and Alpine counties. Except for the North Fork Yuba River, all open waters as of April 21, 2020, will remain open, but a few may have adjusted bag and possession limits. This very limited alteration of a few bag or possession limits through the end of May is designed to protect wild trout fisheries and stocked fisheries that remain open in these counties and is based on coordination with local government in each of the three counties.

Many of the waters listed below have split seasons so it's important to note the listed changes are interim until May 31, 2020, when the changes expire, if not terminated sooner.

Special considerations have been made regarding changes to bag and possession limits to help manage and protect the fisheries open to angling during this interim period. These changes are temporary and will revert back to the existing bag and possession limits after they expire on May 31, 2020. This overview serves to provide overarching guidance on affected sections of the regulations but does not reflect a comprehensive reference of the all associated angling regulations pertinent to, or associated compliance with, general angling activities. Anglers are responsible for knowing information and laws governing such activities along with having appropriate permits/licenses.

It is imperative that anglers practice physical distancing when fishing in the open waters.

Waterways Currently Open In Sierra, Alpine, Inyo, and Mono County With Associated Changes

Inyo County:

All waters currently open to trout fishing will remain open. All of these waters have a reduced bag limit of 2 trout and a possession limit of 4 trout, except the Owens River from Pleasant Valley Dam downstream to the footbridge at the lower end of Pleasant Valley Campground (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 7.50(b)(134)(D)) has a 0 bag limit and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. The Owens River, Section 7.50(b)(134)(E) From footbridge at lower end of Pleasant Valley Campground east (downstream) 3.3 miles along Chalk Bluffs Road to the redwood sport fishing regulations sign, is currently open to fishing with a 0 bag limit. There is no change to this regulation.

Mono County:

All waters currently open to trout fishing will remain open, but with a reduced bag limit of 0 trout and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. Exception: Topaz Lake. Topaz Lake is currently open to fishing with a 5 fish daily bag limit. There is no change to this regulation.

Alpine County:

All waters currently open to trout fishing will remain open, but with a reduced bag limit of 0 trout and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.

Sierra County:

The North Fork Yuba River is currently open from the western boundary of Sierra City downstream to Bullards Bar Reservoir, but will be suspended from Yuba Pass downstream to the confluence with Goodyears Creek.

Waterways Scheduled To Open On The Last Saturday in April (April 25, 2020) For Inyo, Mono, and Alpine County**Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties:**

All openings scheduled for April 25, 2020, for streams regulated under the Sierra District general and special regulations (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sections 7.00(b) and 7.50(b)) in Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties have been delayed to June 1, 2020. Bag and possession limits are unchanged.

Sierra County:

All openings scheduled for April 25, 2020, for streams regulated under the Sierra District general and special regulations (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sections 7.00(b) and 7.50(b)) in Sierra County will continue except for the Downie River, which will be delayed to June 1, 2020. Bag and possession limits are unchanged.

Waterways Scheduled to Open On Memorial Day Weekend (May 23, 2020)**Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties:**

All openings scheduled for May 23, 2020, for streams regulated under the Sierra District special regulations (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, sections 7.00(b) and 7.50(b)) in Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties have been delayed to June 1, 2020. Bag and possession limits are unchanged.